TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 1, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 27, totaled 19.7 billion ton-miles, up 1.8 percent from the 19.4 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 34 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 647.8 billion ton-miles carried, up 7.2 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended August 27 totaled 438,851, up 1.5 percent from the corresponding week of last year, but 0.8 percent below the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 1.4 percent in the East, and 1.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 11 of the 20 major commodity groups increased. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were up 2,319 cars (13.7 percent); coal increased by 3,446 cars (2.7 percent); but grain was down 5,715 cars (18.5 percent). Twelve of the 20 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended August 20 totaled 115,862 trailers and/or containers, up 9.3 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 33 weeks of the year was 3,595,209 trailers and/or containers, up 5.6 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/1/88:

	Loadings in Week ended August 27, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	25,230	D	5,715	18.5	D	2,696	9.7
Other farm products	2,251	D	431	16.1	D	128	5.4
Metallic ores	17,397	D	865	4.7	D	4,093	19.0
Coal	132,743	I	3,446	2.7	I	35	0.03
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	19,520	I	1,395	7.7	I	133	0.7
Nonmetallic minerals	11,206	I	1,145	11.4	I	128	1.2
Grain mill products	10,973	I	579	5.6	I	878	8.7
Food and kindred products	11,196	D	51	0.5	I	11	0.1
Primary forest products	9,871	D	827	7.7	I	121	1.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,333	D	1,489	16.9	I	296	4.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,247	D	381	3.0	I	334	2.8
Chemicals and allied products	27,720	I	1,939	7.5	D	589	2.1
Petroleum products	5,463	I	490	9.9	D	239	4.2
Stone, clay and glass products	11,144	D	194	1.7	D	286	2.5
Coke	5,782	I	4	0.1	D	206	3.4
Metals and products	10,727	I	768	7.7	I	652	6.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	19,227	I	2,319	13.7	I	668	3.6
Waste and scrap materials	9,856	I	680	7.4	I	100	1.0
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,343	D	896	27.7	D	6	0.3
All other carloads	86,622	I	4,728	5.8	I	1,569	1.8
Total Cars Loaded	438,851	I	6,644	1.5	D	3,318	0.8
Corresponding week of 1987	432,207						

	1988	1987	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (34 weeks)	14,331,503	13,592,444	I 5.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
33 weeks ended August 20	628.1	584.7	I 7.4
Week ended August 27	19.7	19.4	I 1.8
34 Weeks cumulative	647.8	604.1	I 7.2

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